

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. CON. RES. 48

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 16, 2003

Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of “National Epilepsy Awareness Month” and urging support for epilepsy research and service programs.

Whereas epilepsy is a neurological condition that causes seizures and affects 2,300,000 people in the United States;

Whereas a seizure is a disturbance in the electrical activity of the brain, and 1 in every 12 Americans will suffer at least 1 seizure;

Whereas 180,000 new cases of seizures and epilepsy are diagnosed each year, and 3 percent of Americans will develop epilepsy by the time they are 75;

Whereas 41 percent of people who currently have epilepsy experience persistent seizures despite the treatment they are receiving;

Whereas a survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention demonstrated that the hardships im-

posed by epilepsy are comparable to those imposed by cancer, diabetes, and arthritis;

Whereas epilepsy in older children and adults remains a formidable barrier to leading a normal life by affecting education, employment, marriage, childbearing, and personal fulfillment;

Whereas uncontrollable seizures in a child can create multiple problems affecting the child's development, education, socialization, and daily life activities;

Whereas the social stigma surrounding epilepsy continues to fuel discrimination, and isolates people who suffer from seizure disorders from mainstream life;

Whereas a significant number of people with epilepsy may lack access to medical care for the treatment of the disease;

Whereas in spite of these formidable obstacles, people with epilepsy can live healthy and productive lives and make significant contributions to society;

Whereas November is an appropriate month to designate as "National Epilepsy Awareness Month"; and

Whereas the designation of a "National Epilepsy Awareness Month" would help to focus attention on, and increase understanding of, epilepsy and those people who suffer from it: Now, therefore, be it

- 1        *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
- 2        *concurring), That Congress—*
- 3                (1) supports the goals and ideals of a "National
- 4        Epilepsy Awareness Month";

Attest: EMILY J. REYNOLDS,  
*Secretary.*